

04/01/2008

5 The present application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number
09/731,375 entitled "Bacterial Polypeptide Delivery" filed December 6, 2000 which claims
priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number
60/195,035 entitled "Bacterial Polypeptide Delivery" filed April 6, 2000.

The present invention is generally in the area of controlled delivery of antigens for use in vaccination or induction of tolerance to allergens, and in particular relates to cellular delivery of proteins and polypeptides. This application is related to U.S.S.N. 60/169,330 entitled "Controlled Delivery of Antigens" filed Dec. 6, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/141,220 entitled "Methods and Reagents for Decreasing Clinical Reaction to Allergy" filed Aug. 27, 1998; U.S.S.N. 09/455,294 entitled "Peptide Antigens" filed December 6, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/494,096 filed January 28, 2000 entitled "Methods and Reagents for Decreasing Clinical Reaction to Allergy" by Bannon et al.; and U.S.S.N. 09/527,083 entitled "Immunostimulatory Nucleic Acids and Antigens" by Caplan filed March 16, 2000; the teachings of which are all incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

25 Allergic reactions pose serious public health problems worldwide. Pollen allergy alone (allergic rhinitis or hay fever) affects about 10-15% of the population, and generates huge economic costs. For example, reports estimate that pollen allergy generated \$1.8 billion of direct and indirect expenses in the United States in 1990 (*Fact Sheet*, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; McMenamin, *Annals of Allergy* 73:35, 1994). Asthma, which can be